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NEWS RELEASE

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GUILTY VERDICTS IN FEDERAL SEXUAL ABUSE TRIAL

Sacramento—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that ALLEN HARROD, 60, of Sacramento, and MICHAEL LABRECQUE, 48, formerly of Fort Worth, Texas, were found guilty of multiple charges involving the interstate transportation of minors for purposes of engaging in unlawful sexual activity. The guilty verdicts were returned this afternoon by a federal court jury in Sacramento after a nine-day trial before United States District Judge William B. Shubb.

HARROD and LABRECQUE were each convicted of six counts of the interstate transportation of a minor with the intent the minor engage in unlawful sexual activity. HARROD was also convicted of one count of transferring custody or control of a minor for the purpose of producing visual depictions of the minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. LABRECQUE was convicted of a similar charge, obtaining custody of a minor for the purpose of producing visual depictions of the minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The jury was unable to reach verdicts on a third defendant, JULIETTE LABRECQUE, 49, also formerly of Fort Worth Texas, and on one charge facing defendant MICHAEL LABRECQUE. The court declared a mistrial as to those charges.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Folsom Police Department, and the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laurel D. White, who is prosecuting the case, the evidence introduced at trial showed that for more than a decade between 1991 and 2001, HARROD, LABRECQUE, and their two wives engaged in ritualistic sex acts with children from the two families as part of a religion started by HARROD and followed by the LABRECQUES. HARROD's religion—a loosely-defined amalgam of doctrines purportedly derived from the Book of Mormon and the Bible—promoted the sexual abuse of children as a means of promoting each child's sexual maturation from childhood to adulthood. Children of both HARROD and the LABRECQUES testified at trial about the sexual abuse inflicted on them by the defendants.

A fourth defendant, Irene Hunt, had previously pleaded guilty in federal court pursuant to a plea agreement wherein she agreed to cooperate with the government and testify against the LABRECQUES and HARROD. Ms. Hunt, who was HARROD's common-law wife, provided an insider's view of the two men's plan to transport LABRECQUE's daughters from Texas to Sacramento for the purpose of engaging in sex acts with HARROD. Hunt will be sentenced for her role in the offenses on February 25, 2008.

The testimony and evidence introduced at trial also revealed that defendant MICHAEL LABRECQUE engaged in ongoing sexual activity with his daughters prior to each girl's travel to Sacramento in order to prepare them for the sex acts they would engage in with HARROD. Evidence revealed that MICHAEL LABRECQUE would begin to sexually train his daughters when they were about seven or eight years old. Evidence offered at trial, however, indicated that one daughter was as young as four years old when the sex began. The evidence also revealed that one of HARROD's sons was transported from Sacramento to Texas to be trained in sexual activity for the purpose of one day assuming HARROD's role as the patriarch of the two families. The son was seven years old at the time he was transported to Texas to live with the LABRECQUES.

The convicted defendants are scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Shubb on April 21, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of transferring or assuming custody of a minor with the knowledge and intent the minor be depicted in sexually explicit images is a life term of

imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine and \$100 penalty assessment. The other charges carry a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison, a possible fine of \$250,000 per count and \$100 penalty assessment for each count. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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